Letter from Taizé

Living the Council of Youth

February 1975

In Mexico, among the inhabitants of Santa Cecilia (the district of Guadalajara hosting the first Latin American celebration of the Council of Youth), I glimpsed with my own eyes a foreshadowing of that Church which God is preparing for us, springing up where people are poorest.

In Chile, listening to christians and to others not believing, sharing the life of those suffering — including the most deprived among them —, I realized how, in the very thick of the present difficulties, the Church was becoming what people in so many lands long to see it become : a place of trust, a household in which those not believing are the sisters and brothers of those who believe, I am tempted to say "the Father's house".

So at Easter, attentive to all the whole people of the beatitudes visited by the risen Christ, we will advance together ...

Roger, your brother

The three of us — Blandine, Isabel and Teresinha — form a mobile team working across the whole central region of the country. At every meeting we have, with various groups, we try to relate the Word of God to the political situation, encouraging the people to take action. Our journeys take us to towns and villages both large and small, to visit many different kinds of groups, and we return several times to each locality.

Portugal is still a very rural country, and in the centre the main form of land-holding consists of tiny stretches of ground which only just allow the population to survive. Still, the country-people work an enormous amount, often at hard tasks with the most rudimentary tools. There is almost no technical assistance, or State protection. These are populations which have been crushed for centuries, characterized by passivity, fatalism, resignation. They have little or nothing in the way of roads, water, electricity, schools or medical care. But what can be done ? There is a Portuguese saying : *'Patience ! It will always be the same.'*

The problem we are faced with is how to stimulate changes, how to discover with this people, which is poor and alienated, the vocation to be People of God — that vocation which will allow all to struggle for a radical change in the situation.

It is from the people that this change will come. Amongst the middle classes we encounter deep-rooted prejudice and great fear. The people is much more open — having nothing to lose. If only it can open its eyes, in the biblical sense : *'The blind see, the deaf hear...'* Each time that we hear somebody speak up at a meeting for the first time in their life, somebody illiterate, broken through years of oppression, once again the miracle happens. Often the Gospel is something very clear for these people, and their understanding comes from their experience of living

ompanion, unless we grow accustomed to sitting at his eet, in his shade, letting our lives be brought to God's est ?

Jean-Claude

At Easter, LE CONCILE DES JEUNES — POURQUOI ? will be published at Taizé in French. (English and other editions will follow.) This book contains exchanges with young people of the different continents, a general reflection by J-C Petit on the Council of Youth, an account of the opening of the Council of Youth at Taizé and a conclusion by Hubert Beuve-Méry of "Le Monde".

Easter Celebration of the Council of Youth at Taizé

The Celebration will last from Friday March 28 Liturgy of the Cross at 8pm) until Monday 31 March in he morning. It will follow the stages of Holy Week : the Cross. the Silence of Holy Saturday, the gladness of Resurrection.

"Districts" will give all those present the possibility f being together in groups of manageable proportions. For art of each day, the people who already see their lives s centered in the commitments of the Council of Youth vill be able to meet in a "conciliar meeting". This will be ivided into a certain number of workshops consecrated o the *"Letter to the People of God"* and *"Living beyond very Hope"*. Meanwhile, those present at Taizé for the rst time will be given various possible ways of entering nto the searching of the Council of Youth.

Those who wish to spend the entire Holy Week as a eriod of silence, centered on the mystery of Christ's death nd resurrection, may arrive on or after Monday March 24.

Quarterly — Community of Taizé (71460) France — Phone (85) 50.11.25
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION : £ 1 ; $ 2.50 USA.
or the U.S.A. contributions towards publication and postage to be sent to : Letter from Taizé », 2150 Almaden Road-114, San José Ca. 95125, U.S.A.
For the U.K. : c/o 23 Christie Street, Dunfermline, Fife, U.K.

Meetings at Taizé

When ? Every week from Monday evening to Sunday noon.

EASTER COUNCIL OF YOUTH CELEBRATION : March 28 - 31 (see p. 7)

Ages : between 18 and 29.

Accommodation : Bring own tent, or use dormitory tents here. Blankets, sleeping-bags and air-mattresses should also be brought. Sleeping-bag essential.

Costs : The Council of Youth is fully self-supporting, financially. Money does not mean the same thing in a rich country and in a poor one, so that it is not possible to quote a precise sum as a reasonable contribution. Each day, if possible, reckon 11 - 15 Francs (including meals).

Registration to be sent to : MEETINGS, 71460 - Taizé-Community, France.

Name :

First Name :

Address :

(with zip-code and country)

Profession : ..... Age : .....

Will take part in the week from Monday ..... to Sunday .....

Will take part in the Easter Council Celebration (28 - 31 March) Yes-No

Has already taken part in a meeting at Taizé : Yes-No

Is bringing own tent : Yes-No

Can be part of reflexion-groups in italian — german — french — english — spanish — portuguese — dutch — swedish.

Can undertake simultaneous translation from ..... into .....

Need .... more registration forms / Information material.

D. R. A. Communauté de Taizé — Dépôt légal : n° 411 — 1er trimestre 1975